

1. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a battery main body comprising at least a cathode, an anode, and an ion conductor enclosed between a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b), at least said sealing member (a) having a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a) so as to have a peripheral portion which surrounds said concave portion, and said two sealing members (a) and (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is faced to said sealing member (b) through said battery main body, characterized in that said sealing member (a) has a peripheral collar portion (a-i) at said peripheral portion of said concaved portion and said sealing member (b) has a peripheral collar portion (b-i) at a region thereof corresponding to said peripheral portion of said sealing member (a) wherein said collar portion (a-i) and said collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and either said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) is provided with a power output terminal having an electrical continuity with said battery main body and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminal.

2. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein
said sealing member (b) also has a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (b) from a central position of said sealing member (b) so as to have a peripheral portion which surrounds said concave portion and said peripheral portion comprises said collar portion (b-i).

3. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) principally comprises one or more metallic materials selected from the group consisting of a stainless steel material, a nickel material, a nickel-plated iron material, an aluminum material, and a copper material.

4. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said collar portion (a-i) and said collar portion (b-i) have a width in a range of from 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm.

5. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is shaped to have a cross section in a substantially symmetrical trapezoidal form.

6. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 5, wherein said symmetrical trapezoidal form as said concave portion has an inclination in a range of from 5° to 45°.

7. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said concave portion of said sealing member (b) is shaped to have a cross section in a substantially symmetrical trapezoidal form.

8. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 7, wherein said symmetrical trapezoidal form as said concave portion has an inclination in a range of from 5° to 45°.

9. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said power output terminal includes a cathode power output terminal electrically connected to said cathode of said battery main body and an anode power output terminal electrically connected to said anode of said battery main body.

10. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 9, wherein said cathode power output terminal and said anode power output terminal are situated at a position in said concave portion of said sealing member (a) which is 15 mm or less distant from a circumferential face of said concave portion.

11. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein at least said sealing member (a) has a region constituted by a plastic material.

12. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) has an internal pressure release vent.

13. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said internal pressure release vent comprises a plug comprising a thin film, a rubber plug or a spring.

14. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion.

15. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material.

16. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material, an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion, and said internal pressure release vent comprises a plug comprising a thin film formed of said plastic material constituting said insulating portion.

17. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said power output terminal includes a cathode power output terminal electrically connected to said cathode of said battery main body and an anode power output terminal electrically connected to said anode of said battery main body, at least said cathode has a cathode lead portion, and said cathode power output terminal is

joined with said cathode lead portion through a cathode power output lead comprising a clad material.

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18. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 17, wherein said clad material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a nickel material, a titanium material and a copper material, or a material containing an element constituting said cathode power output terminal as a main constituent, and a material containing an element constituting said cathode lead portion as a main constituent.

19. (Unamended From Previous Version) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said anode of said battery main body has an anode active material containing a material capable of being alloyed with lithium.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).